

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, October 13, 2008
Volume 44—Number 40
Pages 1301–1333

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WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* is published pursuant to the authority contained in the Federal Register Act (49 Stat. 500, as amended; 44 U.S.C. Ch. 15), under regulations prescribed by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, approved by the President (37 FR 23607; 1 CFR Part 10).

Distribution is made only by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* will be furnished by mail to domestic subscribers for \$80.00 per year (\$137.00 for mailing first class) and to foreign subscribers for \$93.75 per year, payable to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The charge for a single copy is \$3.00 (\$3.75 for foreign mailing).

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Week Ending Friday, October 10, 2008

The President's Radio Address

October 4, 2008

Good morning. This week, Congress passed a bipartisan rescue package to address the instability in America's financial system. This was a difficult vote for many Members of the House and Senate, but voting for it was the right choice for America's economy and for taxpayers like you. I appreciate their efforts to help stop the crisis in our financial markets from spreading to our entire economy. And I appreciate their willingness to work across party lines in the midst of an election season.

The legislation Congress passed provides the necessary tools to address the underlying problem in our financial system. The root of this problem is that, as assets that banks hold have lost value, their ability to provide credit has been restricted, making it more difficult for businesses and consumers to obtain affordable loans.

Without decisive action, this credit crunch threatens to harm our entire economy. With this legislation, the Federal Government can help banks and other financial institutions resume lending. This will allow them to continue providing the capital that is essential to creating jobs, financing college educations, and helping American families meet their daily needs.

Though the \$700 billion dedicated to this plan is a large amount, the final cost to taxpayers will actually be much lower. Many of the assets that the Government will be purchasing still have significant underlying value. As time passes, they will likely go up in price. And this means that the Government should eventually be able to recoup much, if not all, of the original expenditure.

This package will also increase the safety of Americans' personal finances. For 75 years, the FDIC has provided insurance for savings accounts, checking accounts, and certificates of deposit. A similar insurance pro-

gram is in effect for deposits in credit unions. And since these programs were instituted, no one has ever lost a penny on an insured deposit. The rescue package expands this protection by temporarily increasing the amount insured by the Federal Government in banks and credit unions from \$100,000 to \$250,000. These steps should reassure Americans, especially small-business owners, that their money is safe, and it should restore confidence in the health of our banking system.

In addition to addressing the immediate needs of our financial system, this package will also help to spur America's long-term economic growth. This week, we learned that our Nation lost more jobs in September. Under these circumstances, it is essential for the Government to reduce the burdens on workers and business owners. And that is why the rescue package includes relief from the Alternative Minimum Tax, which would otherwise increase taxes for 26 million taxpayers by an average of \$2,200. And that is why it includes tax relief for businesses, which can use these savings to hire new employees and finance new investment.

By taking all these steps, we can begin to put our economy on the road to recovery. While these efforts will be effective, they will also take time to implement. My administration will move as quickly as possible, but the benefits of this package will not all be felt immediately. The Federal Government will undertake this rescue plan at a careful and deliberate pace to ensure that your tax dollars are spent wisely.

I know many of you listening this morning are anxious about the state of our economy and what it means for your personal finances. I am confident that the implementation of this relief package can begin to address those concerns. I'm confident by getting our markets moving, we will help unleash the key to our continued economic success, the entrepreneurial spirit of the American people.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:05 p.m. on October 3 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on October 4. In his address, the President referred to H.R. 1424, approved October 3, which was assigned Public Law No. 110-343. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 3 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks to the White House Press Pool in Midland, Texas

October 4, 2008

It's an amazing experience to come back to a place where you were raised. Laura was raised in Midland; I was raised in Midland. I was—this is one of the three homes I lived in, and I kind of remember it. *[Laughter]* The bedroom—actually, I do remember the wood on the wall that—in the bedroom.

You know, I love Midland, and Texas. We've got a lot of friends here. I learned a lot of values that I hold dear here. It's good to see mom's—Laura's mom here. And it's the first time I've been back here since I've been the President, and it's—it was just a very heartwarming experience.

You know, I've told my friends here, I said, you know, I'm not going to change as a person because of politics of Washington—that's what I said when I left. And I think they appreciate that. I want them to know that, you know, even though I had to deal with a lot of tough issues, that I'm still the same person that they knew before and that, you know, I'm wiser, more experienced, but my heart and my values didn't change.

And so it's great to see our friends. You know, we got a couple more hard months to go, and, obviously, we've got to deal with this financial situation. Congress took a big step in the direction of at least giving us the tools necessary to bring some stability into the marketplace. Got to get credit flowing, of course, so that people feel comfortable about conducting business. And so it's—there's a lot of work to be done. But it's—in the meantime, it's good to come back here to where it all started for us.

Anyway, thank you all. You're welcome to pay the fee to go in and see the house. *[Laughter]*

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:30 p.m. at the George W. Bush Childhood Home Presidential site.

Remarks to the White House Press Pool in San Antonio, Texas

October 6, 2008

It's nice to be here in San Antonio. I've just had a very illuminating conversation with small-business owners here. We have a car dealer, a automobile repair shop, a restaurateurs—two restaurateurs. And it's clear that these small-business owners are dealing with the effects of a credit crunch. And by that I mean that they're having trouble getting money to be able to continue to either expand their business or to be able to—money to help their consumers be able to buy their products. And it's—and I told them one of the reasons why, you know, I was so strongly for this rescue package was, inherent in the strategy of the rescue package is to free up credit, is to get money moving.

And it's going to take a while. I signed the bill on—last week, but it's going to take a while to get in place a program that, one, is effective; two, that doesn't waste taxpayers' money—we don't want to rush into this situation and not have the program be effective. It's going to take a while to restore confidence in the financial system. But one thing people can be certain of is that the bill I signed is a big step toward solving this problem.

A lot of people here in Texas and around the country are not pleased with the Government having to take the steps they took. Their question is, "I pay my bills, I pay my mortgage, why are you helping Wall Street?" And the answer is because had we not done anything, people like the folks behind me would be a lot worse off. We will make sure, as time goes on, this doesn't happen again. In the meantime, we got to solve the problem. And that's why people sent me to Washington, DC. When you see a problem, put a team together and solve it.

And I want to thank you all for your time. I'm glad to be back here in Texas. I miss my friends in Texas. I am—you know, people say, "Are you looking forward to coming home?" Yes, I'm looking forward to living here, but in the meantime, it looks like I'm going to have a lot of work to do between today and when the new President takes office. But Laura and I are glad to be with our friends, and thank you for your time. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:44 a.m. at Olmos Pharmacy. In his remarks, he referred to Betty Garza, owner, Olmos Pharmacy.

Remarks to the Cincinnati Chapter of the Federalist Society in Cincinnati, Ohio

October 6, 2008

Thank you very much. Peter, thank you very much for the introduction and the invitation.

Laura and I are thrilled to be with you. We have just come from Texas. I spent this morning in San Antonio with some small-business owners. They were rightly concerned about our economy and their ability to get credit. They were wondering about a man they know who believes strongly in free markets, and wondering why I promoted a significant piece of legislation to deal with what I believe and others believe is a significant problem, and that is the inability of credit to move as freely as we want.

And I told them, if I thought that the problem would be contained only to Wall Street, I would have taken a particular point of view, but I told them I was concerned about them—just like I'm concerned about you—and, therefore, proposed with the Congress a big rescue plan to deal with a big problem.

I believe that this plan will work over time. I signed the bill on Friday. It's going to take time for the Treasury Department to put a plan in place that won't waste your money and that will achieve the objective.

I believe in the long run this economy is going to be just fine. It's a resilient economy; it's a productive economy with good workers. This is a reminder that we have been through tough times before, and we're going to come

through this just fine. And so, I'm telling my fellow citizens, like the three people I had coffee with there in San Antonio, that this plan is big for a reason. And the plan is going to take time to implement. And I—in the meantime, I told them to keep selling their products and working hard.

So I want to thank you for giving me a chance to come and talk about judges, but before I did so I wanted to share with you my morning. And I'm sure you hear the same thing—people are just wondering, are these banks going to freeze up? And my answer is, we got a plan to deal with it.

And we got a plan to deal with judges too. It's something I've been implementing for 7½ years. And so today I want to thank Peter and Chip Miller—happens to be the president of the Cincinnati lawyers chapter of the mighty Federalist Society; Fred Finks, the president of Ashland University; Gene Meyer, the president of the Federalist Society, for giving me a chance to come and talk about the judiciary.

I appreciate Ed Meese, former Attorney General, for joining us; Paul Clement. The former secretary of State of Ohio; thanks for coming, Mr. Secretary. And thank you all. I understand there are members of the Federalist Society who are viewing this program from afar, over the Internet. So we welcome you via the wonders of modern technology.

Before Oliver Wendell Holmes took his seat on the Supreme Court, he met a supporter who wished him well in his new duties. The supporter expressed satisfaction that Holmes would be going to Washington to administer justice. Holmes replied, "Don't be too sure. I'm going there to administer the law." Holmes was trying to make clear what he believed was the proper role of judges: to apply the laws as written, and not to advance their own agendas. He knew that it was up to elected officials, not appointed judges, to represent the popular will.

Our Founders gave the judicial branch enormous power. It's the only branch of Government whose officers are unelected. That means judges on the Federal bench must exercise their power prudently, cautiously, or some might even say, conservatively. [*Laughter*] And that means that the selection and

confirmation of good judges should be a high priority for every citizen.

We've seen the profound impact that judges can have on the daily lives of every citizen. We saw the power of judges in 2002, when the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals declared the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional because it contained the words "under God."

We saw the power of judges in the *Kelo* decision, a 5-4 majority of the Supreme Court that ruled that governments could seize people's homes for private development. The government decided the seizure was for the greater good.

We saw the power of judges in *Boumediene v. Bush*. There, a 5-4 majority rejected the carefully crafted procedures Congress established for detainees held at Guantanamo Bay in response to a prior Supreme Court decision. And for the first time, the Court awarded foreign terrorists held overseas legal rights previously reserved for American citizens.

Recently, we've also seen the important role of judges in the rulings of a very different 5-4 majority. We saw this last year, when five members of the Supreme Court upheld a law banning the grisly practice of partial birth abortion. We saw it again this June, when that same slender majority stood up for the plain meaning of our Constitution and upheld the rights of citizens under the second amendment.

The lesson should be clear to every American: Judges matter. And that means the selection of good judges should be a priority for all of us. I appreciate that many people listening today and here in this room have worked hard to recruit more Americans to this cause. This work is in all our interests, but the truth of the matter is, the belief in judicial restraint is shared by the vast majority of American citizens.

A lot has happened since 2000, yet I can still remember the heated debate over the kinds of judges Presidents should appoint. One group said that judges ought to look at the Constitution as a document that grows with our country and our history. This concept of a living Constitution gives unelected judges wide latitude in creating new laws and policies without accountability to the people.

And then there was another side, which I happened to be a part of, that said we needed judges who believed that the Constitution means what it says. When asked if I had any idea in mind of the kinds of judges I would appoint, I clearly remember saying, "I do." That would be Judges Scalia and Thomas.

Judge Scalia recently gave an interview on the TV show "60 Minutes." I don't know if you're supposed to call it a TV show, kind of—[laughter]—newsworthy show. [Laughter] He talked about the schoolchildren who visit the Supreme Court and proudly recite what they had been taught about the living Constitution. Judge Scalia noted that he usually had the sad duty of telling the children that the Constitution was never alive. [Laughter] He believed, as I do and many in this hall believe, that the Constitution is not a living document, it is an enduring document, and good judges know the difference.

And I made a promise to the American people during the campaign that if I was fortunate enough to be elected, my administration would seek out judicial nominees who follow that philosophy. We would search from a diverse array of candidates and nominate those who met the highest standards of competence. We would not impose any litmus tests concerning particular issues or cases. Instead, we would seek judges who would faithfully interpret the Constitution, and not use the courts to invent laws or dictate social policy. And with your support, we have kept that pledge. I have appointed more than one-third of all the judges now sitting on the Federal bench, and these men and women are jurists of the highest caliber, with an abiding belief in the sanctity of our Constitution.

The judicial philosophy that I brought to Washington, DC, is demonstrated most clearly by the—some of the judges I have named to the bench—matter of fact, all the judges I've named to the bench. [Laughter] One of them is the son of an Italian American—schoolteachers from Trenton, New Jersey. He graduated from Princeton and Yale Law. He worked in Ronald Reagan's Justice Department, was the U.S. Attorney for New Jersey, and served as a distinguished circuit court judge. When I announced his nomination, this good man was hailed by

Democrats and Republicans alike for his keen mind and impeccable credentials. And America is well served by the 110th Justice of the United States Supreme Court, Samuel A. Alito.

And serving with Justice Alito on the High Court is the former captain of a high school football team who worked summers in the steel mill to help pay for college. He received his bachelor's degree from Harvard in just 3 years and was managing editor of the Harvard Law Review. He later clerked for William H. Rehnquist, the man he would replace as Chief Justice. At his confirmation hearing, this outstanding jurist put his philosophy this way: "Judges are like umpires. Umpires don't make the rules, they apply them. It is a limited role. Nobody ever went to a ball game to see the umpire." I was very proud to nominate for the Supreme Court a really decent man, and a man of good judgment, and that would be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court John Roberts.

Chief Justice Roberts was so obviously well-qualified that he received overwhelming support from Members of the Senate, including many Senators generally considered to be well left-of-center.

Unfortunately, the broad, bipartisan, and timely support for Chief Justice Roberts has increasingly become the exception. Over the years, the advice and consent clause of our Constitution has been subjected to serious abuse. Members of the Senate seem to embrace the advice part; it's the consent part that seems to be the problem.

Perhaps the best demonstration of this problem is the story of Miguel Estrada. Miguel was one of my first nominees to the courts, and he had an inspiring personal history. He was an immigrant from Latin America who came to the United States with little knowledge of English. He came to live the dream. He studied hard, and he worked hard, and he made his way to Columbia Law School, and then Harvard Law School. He was a Supreme Court clerk. He prosecuted crimes in the U.S. Attorney's office in New York, and he served in the Justice Department under President Bill Clinton.

When Miguel Estrada was nominated for a seat on the DC Circuit Court, he received a unanimous well-qualified rating from the

American Bar Association. Yet for more than 2 years he awaited a simple up-or-down vote in the United States Senate; he never got one. For the first time in history, the Senate used a filibuster to block a nominee to the Court of Appeals. This fine American endured years of delay; he had his character unfairly attacked, and ultimately withdrew his name from consideration, all because a minority of Senators thought they would not like his rulings on the bench and worried that a President might one day elevate him to the Supreme Court.

Miguel Estrada deserved better. He deserved a more dignified treatment from the United States Senate. And the American people deserve better behavior from those they send to represent them in Washington, DC.

Unfortunately, Miguel Estrada's experience is not an isolated one. Many other well-qualified nominees have endured uncertainty and withering attacks on their character simply because they've accepted the call to public service. Those waiting in limbo include: Peter Keisler for the DC Circuit Court, Rod Rosenstein for the Fourth Circuit, and dozens of other nominees to district and circuit courts across this country.

Some of these nominees waiting for a simple up-or-down vote would fill court vacancies that have been designated judicial emergencies. While these vacancies remain unfulfilled—unfilled—legal disputes are left unresolved, the backlog of cases grows larger, and the rule of law is delayed for millions of Americans.

The broken confirmation process has other consequences that Americans never see. Lawyers approached about being nominated will often politely decline because of the uncertainty and delay and ruthlessness that now characterizes the confirmation process. Some worry about the impact a nomination might have on their children, who would hear their dad or mom's name dragged through the political mud. This situation is unacceptable, and it's bad for our country. A judicial nomination should be a moment of pride for nominees and their families, not the beginning of an ugly battle. And the confirmation process should befit the greatest democracy

in the world, and not look like a bad episode of “Survivor.” [*Laughter*]

It is clear we need to improve the process for confirming qualified judicial nominees. This process will always be somewhat contentious. But there are a few things that the American people expect us to agree on. First, the American people expect nominees and their families to be treated with dignity. Nominees should not have to wait years for the up-or-down vote that the Senate owes them.

The American people expect their elected officials to do the job of screening judicial nominees. We should not cede to any one legal association the exclusive power to veto a nominee before he or she can make their case to Members of the Senate.

The American people expect the nomination process to be as free of partisanship as possible, and for Senators to rive [rise]* above tricks and gimmicks designed to thwart nominees. For example, Senators have invented a new rule that bans the election-year confirmation of anyone not considered a consensus nominee, with consensus defined as only the nominees they happen to choose. In the end, the people hurt most by these partisan maneuvers are the American people. And that is not what our Founders intended, and Presidents and Senators from both parties ought to say so.

In Washington, it can be easy to get caught up in the politics of the moment. Yet if we do not act to improve the confirmation process, those who are today deploying harmful tactics and maneuvers to thwart nominees will sooner or later find the tables turned. There are things more important, even in Washington, than politics as usual.

Next month, the Senate will hold a lame duck session to finish their legislative business for the year. One item that should be at the top of their agenda is a long list of qualified judicial nominees still waiting for Senate action. If Democrats truly seek a more productive and cooperative relationship in Washington, then they have a perfect opportunity to prove it, by giving these nominees the up-or-down vote they deserve.

* White House correction.

Our democracy requires us to come together and to get things done for the citizens of this great republic. I’m confident we can do that. And I’m grateful that there are dedicated people like you all who are working so hard to help us put good judges on the courts, and equally important, to help invest the American people in the process.

I salute you for your good work. Appreciate the chance to come and visit with you. May God bless you. And may God bless the American people.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:02 p.m. at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza. In his remarks, he referred to Peter W. Schramm, executive director, Ashbrook Center for Public Affairs, Ashland University, who introduced the President; former U.S. Solicitor General Paul D. Clement; and former secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell of Ohio. He also referred to H.R. 1424, approved October 3, which was assigned Public Law No. 110–343. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Memorandum on Waiver of Restriction on Providing Funds to the Palestinian Authority

October 6, 2008

Presidential Determination No. 2009–02

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Waiver of Restriction on Providing Funds to the Palestinian Authority

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 650(b) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008 (Division J, Public Law 110–161) (the “Act”), as carried forward under section 1417 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110–252) (the “Supplemental”), I hereby certify that it is important to the national security interests of the United States to waive the provisions of section 650(a) of the Act, as carried forward under the Supplemental, in order to provide funds appropriated for fiscal year 2009 under the heading Economic Support Funds to the Palestinian Authority.

You are directed to transmit this determination to the Congress, with a report pursuant to section 650(d) of the Act, as carried forward under the Supplemental, and to publish the determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 14, 2008]

NOTE: This memorandum will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 15.

Remarks Honoring the 2008 United States Summer Olympic and Paralympic Teams
October 7, 2008

The President. Thank you. Welcome. Good morning.

Audience members. Good morning.

The President. This is a special day for the White House. Laura and I are proud to welcome the greatest Olympic and Paralympic team ever assembled. And I bring greetings from the honorary captain of the Olympic teams, President George H.W. Bush; we call him 41.

I want to thank the members of the Cabinet who are here, and the administration. I want to thank the coaches and the team leaders, and the U.S. Olympic Committee leadership and staff for being here. We welcome the representatives of Chicago 2016 who are here. Members of the U.S. Armed Forces; moms, dads, girlfriends, boyfriends, supporters of the mighty Olympic team, we're glad you're here.

I do want to welcome members of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports—

Audience member. Whoo! [Laughter]

The President. —including John Burke, the Chairman; Dot Richardson, the Vice Chairman—by the way, member of the 1996 and 2000 U.S. Olympic gold medal softball teams. And the reason I want to mention them is today the Health and Human Services is issuing its Physical Fitness Guidelines, and there's no better time to remind our fellow citizens that physical fitness will lead to a healthy America. Just look what's happened

to the people surrounding me. [Laughter] And so we urge our fellow citizens to look at these guidelines and to take time out of your days to exercise. Now, not every one of you has to ride a mountain bike, but if you walk just 20 minutes a day you'll help America and help yourself.

Attending the Beijing Olympics was one of the great experiences of our lifetime. Laura and I had a fantastic experience. We will never forget the first night at the Bird's Nest for the spectacular opening ceremony. When the Team USA was announced, there was a notable increase in the cheers. And then came the greatest sight of all—more than 500 America's—of America's finest athletes marching behind our flag, carried by Bernard Lagat [Lopez Lomong].* It was an incredible sight, and I know it was a moment that all of our athletes looked forward to, and it's a moment that we were so honored to share with you.

In the weeks that followed, our Olympic team took part in the largest games ever held. Over 100,000 [10,000]* athletes competed in more than 300 events. An unprecedented 87 countries brought home medals. Forty-three world records were broken. About 4.7 billion viewers watched the Olympics.

And with the eyes of the world turned on Beijing, our teams rose to the occasion. The Olympic team finished with the top medal count of 110 medals.

But more impressive was the decency and character that these Olympics brought on the world stage. I know you worked hard—the Olympics and Paralympic teams worked hard to get to this moment. Whether you won a medal or not, it really doesn't matter in the long run. What really matters is the honor you brought to your sports and to your families and to your country.

And we thank you for the lasting memories that you gave us all. And so here are some of the lasting memories that I will take with me forever. First of all, the Water Cube—watching Jason Lezak touch out I think it was the French team—[laughter]—on the 4x100 freestyle relay, and then watching the joy of his teammates, including Michael Phelps.

* White House correction.

People say, “Did you ever get to meet Michael Phelps?” I said, “I did.” “So that was the highlight?” I said, “Not really; meeting his mother was more of a highlight.” [*Laughter*] She reminded me of my mother—plain-spoken and full of love.

So, Michael, we congratulate you. We thank you for joining us today, and we congratulate all the swimmers for the Olympic team.

And how about our gymnasts, Nastia Liukin and Shawn Johnson? What I found interesting was that these champions were roommates while they were competing for gold. And one wonders whether or not that friendship would be damaged in the heat of the competition. The truth of the matter is, it wasn’t. They showed the true Olympic spirit of being competitors in the gym, but being friends in the dorm. And so we welcome these two champions here today, and we thank you for setting such a good example.

So, as you know, I’m a baseball guy, and have come to admire women’s softball a lot.

Audience member. Whoo!

The President. Yes. [*Laughter*] So I know with us today are Finch, Duran, Abbott, Galindo, Lappin, Lowe, Berg, and Watley—members of the U.S. Olympic women’s softball team.

I bring this up because I really think that these women are an inspiration to young girls all across the globe, and the Olympics would be smart to keep women’s softball as a part of its program. And I want to thank you for welcoming to your practice.

I also want to welcome today a fellow Texan named Laura Wilkinson. And at Sydney she stunned the world by taking gold. This summer, she returned to the Olympic stage for the third and final time, and she was fighting through injuries. But she brought such class to the arena. There was never any of this, “woe is me; how pitiful is life.” She said she was honored to compete. She and her husband have returned home to the great State of Texas to raise money for a new diving center in The Woodlands, Texas. In other words, she had put something back into the community. And I urge all of us, whether we’re Olympic—Olympians or not, to recognize the opportunity to make the communities in which we live a better place.

Laura, welcome and thank you for the example you have set.

So I spent a little time at the beach volleyball arena. [*Laughter*] I got to meet Todd Rogers and Phil Dalhausser. These two men are incredible athletes, and they—it was really interesting to be there to watch them warm up. And then they introduced me to the Brazilian team and to the Italian team, and it was really a lot of fun—but not nearly as much fun as spending time with Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh. [*Laughter*]

These two women are not only great athletes, they’re really great people. And I’m just so sorry that Misty May got injured on Dancing for the Stars. [*Laughter*] God, if only she had me as a partner, you know? [*Laughter*] Except I can’t dance. [*Laughter*] But I wish those—you know, it’s interesting, I read a comment from Misty May today. She said, “Yes, I got hurt Dancing on the Stars, but I’ll be back at the 2012 Olympics.” [*Laughter*]

I also know that all of us were deeply touched by what happened to Hugh McCutcheon and his family. Nevertheless, we were greatly inspired when the men’s volleyball team rallied. They won an incredible gold medal against all odds to really help lift up the coach’s family and his spirits, as well as the whole Nation’s spirits.

I congratulate the men and women’s basketball teams. You can just imagine what it was like when the men’s basketball team asked me to get in one of their huddles right before the game against China. I was like a jockey. [*Laughter*] But they brought a lot of class to the courts, both teams did. What impressed me and Laura was that the men were there cheering on the women, and the women were there cheering on the men. There was ample opportunity for people to “big shot” it at the Olympics; not our athletes. They were there for the right reason, to support their teams and to support their nations—our Nation.

Now, one of the things that we really regret missing was the—being in the Bird’s Nest for the 13th Paralympic games. And we congratulate the athletes who are here as well. We recognize your hard work, and we’re proud to call you Olympians.

I'm particularly pleased to be here with those who have worn the uniform of our country. On the America team were 16 men and women who served the Nation in uniform, one of whom was Army Lieutenant Melissa Stockwell. She lost her leg while serving our country in Iraq. Four years after hard work, 4 years after significant rehabilitation, she qualified as a swimmer. And her teammates elected her as the flag bearer for the closing ceremonies. We welcome you, Melissa, and we welcome you all.

Long after we leave the White House, Laura and I will remember the extraordinary spirit and kindness of the athletes that we have met here at the White House and in Beijing. One unforgettable moment came after swimmer Larsen Jensen won the bronze medal in the 400 freestyle relay. When he was presented his bouquet of flowers, he looked around the Water Cube and he made a special delivery; he climbed into the stands, and he gave the bouquet to Laura. It was an incredibly kind gesture—and by the way, Larsen, our anniversary is next month if you'd like to go—[*laughter*]. He also told me something in private, where he said he looks forward to serving our country.

Our Olympic athletes have served our country in many ways. But you have a chance to continue to serve. And we honor your service as athletes, and we look forward to honoring your service as worthy citizens of our great country.

You amazed the world with your talent and grace and sportsmanship. You've inspired children to chase their dreams. You will be champions forever. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:33 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to the following members of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic teams: runner Bernard Lagat; runner Lopez Lomong, in his capacity as flag bearer for the Olympic opening ceremony; swimmers Jason Lezak, Michael Phelps, and Larsen Jensen; gymnasts Nastia Liukin and Shawn Johnson; women's softball players Jennie Finch, Andrea Duran, Monica Abbott, Vicky Galindo, Lauren Lappin, Caitlin Lowe, Laura Berg, and Natasha Watley; diver Laura Wilkinson; men's beach volleyball players Todd Rogers and Phil Dalhausser; women's beach volleyball players Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh; men's

volleyball head coach Hugh McCutcheon; and swimmer Melissa Stockwell, in her capacity as flag bearer for the Paralympic closing ceremony. He also referred to Deborah Phelps, mother of Michael Phelps; and Eriq Hulseman, husband of Laura Wilkinson.

Remarks on the National Economy and a Question-and-Answer Session in Chantilly, Virginia

October 7, 2008

The President. Thank you all. Thank you very much. David, thank you for the introduction, and thank you for the warm welcome. I'm pleased to be here at Guernsey Office Products. I want to thank all of you all for working hard to make this visit as comfortable as it is. It's not easy to host the President; I understand. [*Laughter*] But thank you very much, David, for being an entrepreneur, a dreamer, a doer, and for providing people stable work.

It's interesting to know that Guernsey is a trusted name throughout the Washington area. You sell everything from office supplies to coffee products to furnishings. David's a good marketer; he said, "Listen, I understand you're going to be retiring here pretty soon." [*Laughter*] "Do you need some furniture in your new digs in Texas?" [*Laughter*]

I met David at the White House earlier, and I—it was my honor to welcome him to the White House compound. And I appreciate you welcoming me here to your business.

I know that small businesses like Guernsey around the Nation are feeling the impact of the financial crisis. And I appreciate you giving me a chance to come and visit with you about what the Government is going to do, how we're going to address the challenge, and how we're going to get this economy back on track.

There's no doubt that people from all walks of life and all aspects understand that we're having serious times. Families are squeezed by the high price of gasoline, and feeling the pinch of food prices and monthly mortgage payments. Workers are anxious about whether their paychecks will stretch. Some workers are anxious about whether or not they're going to keep their jobs.

We also know that we're the most dynamic economy in the world, that we have been through tough times before, and that we're going to come through this time again. Our entrepreneurial system has delivered unparalleled levels of productivity and growth and prosperity. During my Presidency, we have faced tough times after the terrorist attack of 9/11, and we came through strongly. And we're going to come through this. No question the times are tough, but no question America will emerge. And yet, we got some work to do, and that's what I want to share with you.

The immediate challenge facing the economy is a lack of credit. The problem became clear when the housing market declined, and complex financial assets related to home mortgages dropped in value. People put together securities based upon mortgages, and when the mortgages' value went down, so did those securities. And this led banks that owned the securities to suffer losses. And then they found themselves short on capital. Some banks have failed. And other banks, in reaction, have restricted lending to businesses and to each other. And that's the definition of a credit crunch: People just are not lending.

Nations around the world, especially in Europe, are facing severe credit shortages of their own. So this isn't a problem just in the United States; it's a problem that is world-wide.

To some people, the credit crunch might sound just simply like technical talk; it's a technical matter. But the people who work in Guernsey, you understand that credit is the fuel that drives economic expansion and job creation. And here's how: See, when credit runs dry in one part of our economy, there's a chain reaction. So you want to sell a desk to somebody. That person needs to borrow the money in the short term to buy the desk. And yet, because the credit has tightened, because of some banks aren't lending, a potential customer doesn't have the money to buy your desk, and that affects you. So a lot of the talk that you're hearing about credit crunches applies directly to your business here at Guernsey. It hurts your suppliers; it affects the entire economy.

Similar stories play out not only in businesses like Guernsey, but all across the economy. And if the credit crunch were allowed to worsen, the outcome would become much worse, with widespread job losses, and this country could be in a—possibly a painful and deep recession.

So I decided to do something about it. As you know, I'm a market-oriented person. I believe markets ought to be allowed to work, until I was convinced that this time the Government needed to act, and needed to act boldly in the face of a significant problem. So I went to Congress and I asked Congress to pass a rescue package. And there were some tough moments in the negotiations, as you might remember. Nevertheless, Republicans and Democrats did come together to pass a good bill that will enable us to handle this challenge head on.

Now, the plan will provide the Government a range of tools to help banks rebuild capital, for example, so they can help move credit that will enable people to buy your desks; that it will make it more likely people are going to have less job insecurity. When you're building desks and selling desks, you find work, and you keep work.

The bill ensures that responsible, hard-working Americans are protected. I mean, one thing is for certain, we don't want your money to reward failed executives. There's oversight as the bill gets implemented. In other words, people in Washington will worry whether there's too much power in the Treasury; therefore, let's have reasonable oversight. And I agree, I think that makes a lot of sense.

It temporarily expands Federal insurance; bank and credit union deposits of up to \$250,000—that's important. In essence, it's a safeguard for a lot of small businesses and a lot of families. In other words, if you've got cash in a bank of up to \$250,000, it's safe. The FDIC has never failed to make good on its promise, and it won't fail to make good on its promise.

These are urgently needed steps. They will help bring stability to the volatile markets. They'll help protect 401(k)s and retirement accounts. And as the markets begin to stabilize, it will help markets overseas.

I have been in close contact with European leaders—I was on the phone with them this morning—to ensure that our actions are closely coordinated. We live in a globalized world. We want to make sure that we're effective at what we do. Once we made the decision that there is a role for the Federal Government to move to stabilize the markets, we want to make sure that all of us move in the best coordinated way as possible.

Interestingly enough, the finance ministers from the G-7 and other leading nations will be here in Washington this weekend to make sure that the response is coordinated.

It's going to take time for these actions that I've described to you in the bill to have full effect. You want to make sure that when we move, we move effectively. You want to make sure that the plan is well thought-out and well delivered. Thawing the freeze in the financial system is not going to happen overnight, but it will be a process that unfolds over several stages. And, obviously, the first stage began last Friday, when I signed the rescue package into law.

And so the Treasury Department is moving aggressively to implement the new authorities. In the meantime, the Federal Reserve and the FDIC will use their powers to help stabilize the markets. Just this morning, the Federal Reserve announced action to provide additional liquidity to credit markets. The Federal Government moved—Federal Reserve moved to try to free up liquidity so that this credit crisis begins to unwind.

A few weeks from now, the main elements of the new legislation will begin to kick into gear. And as banks rebuild their capital, they'll be able to increase lending to each other and begin approving new loans for families and businesses. It's not going to happen all at once; it will be a gradual process, and it's going to take time to have its full effect.

As the banking sector and the market for troubled assets recover, the Government will begin to recoup some of the taxpayers' funds invested in the recovery. In other words, some of these assets that were taken are at a depressed value. Homeownership—homeowners—home prices are down, the value of the assets are down. Eventually, we expect

that much, if not all, of the tax dollars will be recouped.

The financial troubles are the most urgent challenges facing our economy today, but they're not the only ones. And we'll spend a little time talking about them, and then I'll be glad to answer some questions, if you have any.

One pressing concern is, obviously, the cost of energy. The cost of energy affects families, but it affects businesses as well, like Guernsey, which rely on energy to ship and make your products. High energy costs, obviously, are attributable to the high price of oil and natural gas. And that's why this administration, in working with Congress, has dramatically expanded funding for research into alternatives, including hybrid car batteries, fuels like ethanol and biodiesel, solar and wind power, and safe and nuclear power—safe and clean nuclear power.

The rescue package I signed last week extended tax incentives to alternative energy sources. In other words, the rescue package was just not aimed at dealing with the financial issues; it was aimed at dealing with the energy issues too, to help encourage alternative energy so we become less dependent on foreign oil. However, in the meantime, we need to be drilling. I mean, I'd rather us drill here than send our money overseas. And we can do so in environmentally friendly ways. Congress responded to the will of the people by lifting the ban on offshore energy exploration, which is good. It's going to take a while to go through all the permitting and all the environmental regulations, but nevertheless, a step was—a positive step was taken to become less dependent on foreign oil.

Another issue is home foreclosures, and there's a smart way to deal with that. The truth of the matter is, people—some people bought homes far beyond their means. Some people bought homes to simply speculate. But there's also a lot of sensible homeowners who can make mends—ends meet with just a little bit of help, and that's what we want. We want people—to help people stay in their homes. And so we've created what's called HOPE NOW, which brings together homeowners, lenders, mortgage servicers, and others to find ways to prevent foreclosures, to

help people work through the current mortgage issues.

I told you that mortgages were bundled up into securities that banks bought, and as those securities went down in value, it affected the banks' balance sheets. Well, interestingly enough, when you securitize mortgages and sell them, it means that the people who originated your mortgage is—no longer owns the paper. And so a lot of people say, "Who can I talk to to help me refinance my home? Where do I go?" And so the HOPE NOW allowance—Alliance is an opportunity to say to folks, here's how you can find the ways to renegotiate your paper—renegotiate your note. And it's working.

And by the way, we got another initiative out of the Federal Housing Administration, and all these programs have so far helped more than 2 million Americans stay in their homes. In other words, there's an ongoing attempt to help people who need just a little help to be able to pay off their mortgages. And by the way, most people are paying off their mortgages, which ultimately means these mortgage-backed securities, the value that we may end up owning, will be recouped. And that's why I say there's a good chance the taxpayers will get their money back.

Every American knows the burden of taxes during the tough economic time, that burden that falls especially hard. A lot of people are wondering whether or not their taxes are going to go up. One of the interesting things about the package I signed is that it does prevent the Alternative Minimum Tax from kicking in, which would have cost 26 million Americans \$2,200 apiece. During this economic uncertainty, we don't need to be raising taxes.

And so the bill was more than just the rescue plan. The bill helped deal with Alternative Minimum Tax that would have kicked in, that would have affected a lot of you in this room. And the truth of the matter is, I think Congress ought to send a signal when they come back next year, and say, look, we're going to make all the tax relief we passed permanent, so there's not any doubt in anybody's mind.

Finally, we need to deal with exports. A bright spot in the economy has been that

we've exported a lot of goods overseas. People are buying our products. They should; we make great products, and we got great workers. Last year, about half of our growth was attributable to exports, and so it makes sense for Congress to continue to open up markets in places like Colombia or Panama or South Korea. Take Colombia, for example. Most of their goods come into our economy duty free, and yet our goods are taxed in Colombia. I can't understand why Congress wouldn't want to at least level the playing field for our workers, to simply send them a message: Treat us the way we treat you. That's all we want. Give us a fair chance so we can export our goods.

Exports are a very important part of our economy, and Congress ought to work hard to expand markets. We'll work through this. We're taking aggressive steps. And it's not an easy problem. No question about it, it's tough times. But I am confident in the long term for this country. I'm confident that the steps we've taken are bold and necessary. And more importantly, I'm confident in the resiliency and the spirit of the American people and the workers.

This isn't the first time the American economy has faced challenges. And it's not going to be the first time that we have in a recovery come out better, either. You got a motto here at Guernsey that says, "No matter what your clients need, your answer is the same: We can do that." That ought to be a good motto for the United States right now. We can do it.

Let me—I'll answer some questions. So, like—it's hard to ask the President questions, I know. [*Laughter*]

Yes, David.

National Economy/Small Businesses

Q. Mr. President, your words are certainly very reassuring. Every time we open up a newspaper or we turn on the TV today, and see all this impending financial doom—and I think it's enough to make people want to dig a foxhole and hide under. What would be your advice to the small-business community, in terms of the actions going forward, to dovetail with what you're trying to accomplish here?

The President. Well, first of all, I would—I think it’s, first, important to recognize what the problem is. And if a small-business owner is worried about getting credit to be able to roll over inventory, or to make payroll, my first question as a small-business owner is: “What are you going to do about it, President Bush?” And the answer is, one, recognize the problem and start freeing up some capital—some credit into the economy to start unsticking it.

And it’s going to take a while. And the truth of the matter is, until you see that credit begin to get easier, you’re going to have doubts as to whether or not the Government has got an effective plan. But I believe the steps we’re taking will free up the credit. It took a while to get it frozen; it’s going to take a while to get it unstuck. And the Fed took a big step today.

And my—the other thing is, David, is that, obviously, there’s something resilient in your spirit; otherwise, you wouldn’t have started this business in the first place. And as you will—can testify, running a small business is full of all kinds of challenges. And it hasn’t been an easy path to success. You’ve met challenges before, and a successful businessperson will meet them again. And I know you’ll adjust your business according to the circumstances. In the meantime, have faith that this economy is going to recover over time. And when it does, you’re going to be in a good position to take advantage of an expanding economy.

I wish I could snap my fingers and make what happened stop. But that’s not the way it works. And I told you, I made a decision that is really opposite of my philosophy. I basically believe if people make bad decisions in the marketplace, they ought to fail. The problem is, in this case, failure would have cost you. What appeared to be something that might have been isolated in New York, would have cost you the job. And that was unacceptable to me.

And that’s why I made the decision I made. And believe me, I fully understand a lot of small-business owners saying, “Wait a minute, I met the payroll”—or people such as yourself—“I pay my mortgage, I pay my bills—what are you doing?” And what I’m doing is, I’m taking the action necessary to

make sure that this financial system doesn’t collapse, so you don’t get hurt.

And, listen, I understand America’s frustrations, better than you can possibly know. I went home out there to west Texas where I was raised. Some old guy said, you know, “Hey, man, what are you doing?” [Laughter] And I said, I’m recognizing reality, that this is a serious economic situation that requires strong government action. And that’s what we’ve taken.

And so the answer to your question is, let’s give this time—give this plan time to get these credit markets eased up so that normal business can begin. And it’s—you know, there’s a lot of uncertainty and a lot of worry, and I understand that. It’s one of the reasons I came here to talk about the deal.

Yes, ma’am.

National Economy

Q. Mr. President, thanks for being here. And thank you for being on-the-spot for questions; this is a wonderful opportunity. I am Georgia Graves, the president of Bridgman Communications. We’re a small-business telephone company installing phone systems in the region. But just as importantly, I’m chairman of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce. We’re a chamber made up of small- and medium-sized businesses. We’re located here in the Dulles corridor. We know that this is one of the key places in the country to locate your business. We are very proud that last week we hit the 1,000 mark with members, meaning we’re the largest chamber in Fairfax County.

What our board of directors would like to ask you today—on their behalf, today I’d like to know, what would you recommend and give us as advice that we can do to help our members sustain the next period of time in this economic climate? What would you advise us to do as a chamber of commerce?

The President. I would advise you—a week ago I would have advised you to write your Congressman and tell him to vote for the plan. [Laughter] Now I would advise the president to make sure that which you do—that which the—the powers inherent in the bill, when we do something, they’re effective.

It’s interesting, I met with some of the local business folks today. And a man wisely

said, "Okay, now that you've got the plan, where's the action?" And as I said in my remarks, that we're—we want to make sure that when we move, we move effectively and—so that the consequences are positive. And so what I would do is, I would tell your president to not be hasty and have a good team of people put together a strategy that will address the root cause of the problem.

In the meantime, I would remind people that we have been through tough times before. You know, one of the things I'm concerned about is the psychology of people. They're basically saying, "Oh, this is just too tough." The good news is in America we generally don't do that. The good news in America is we say, we're going to deal with the circumstances, and we're going to deal with them in a resolute fashion.

But, you know, we're just going to have to work our way through this. And it's—and I'm confident we'll succeed. I really am. It's not going to be easy, because all this—everybody got kind of interwoven. And it's hard to explain to people how this happened. The truth of the matter is, the Government in good conscience tried to encourage people to buy homes. But the problem is that the financial institutions in Washington, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, just were basically unregulated to the point where they wrote a lot of product that was untrustworthy over time.

And, you know, the tendency in politics is to try to blame somebody else—and I'm certainly not doing this at this point in time—but we did try to pass regulation that basically said to Fannie and Freddie: Stay in your lane and focused on your core mission. But that's not what happened, and now we have to deal with the consequences. And a lot of people own this paper that devalued in value, which is causing financial institutions to recoup.

There's very little that you can advise your members of until this credit crisis eases, because your members are going to be asking you, "What did he tell you about easing the credit?" Because until credit eases, it's going to be hard for businesses to feel confident to move. And that's—the whole purpose of coming today was to tell you, one, we recognize the credit problem; and two, we're taking bold action to deal with it.

Yes, ma'am. You got a follow—that's what we call a follow up. [*Laughter*]

Q. Well, I think it's also important that as members that we learn to work together, and that we re-look at everything that we buy and look within our membership, and that all of us in America become partners with each other to help each other's business, because we're all in it together.

The President. Yes. You answered your own question very well. [*Laughter*] No wonder you're the head of the chamber of commerce. [*Laughter*]

Yes, sir.

Stock Market/Retirement Plans

Q. Mr. President, what do you think is going to happen to my 401(k) and other people's retirement plan?

The President. I think in the long run they're going to be fine, because the stock markets will reflect real value. In the short term, they're going to take a hit.

And so the question is, how fast can we get credit in the economy to get this economy moving again? And there's a lot of aspects of the economy that are suffering right now—housing market, for example. A lot of people wonder what happened. Well, what happened was, they overbuilt—or we overbuilt—built too many homes relative to the number of buyers. And until that overhang gets worked off, the housing market is going to remain soft. The positive news is, long-term mortgage rates are dropping. In other words, money is becoming cheaper to buy a mortgage. And over time, the housing market will begin to recover. That'll help the economy recover. Easing the credit will help the economy recover, and the values in the stock market will recover as well.

But no question in the short term, if you're—the value of your 401(k), if you're in stocks, is going to go down. Question is, how fast can we recover this economy? I believe we got—I know we've had a very powerful economy. After all, we grew 52 uninterrupted months of job growth. And when we recover, we're going to have a powerful recovery—economy again. We're a productive country. We're an entrepreneurial country. The small-business sector is strong. And right

now we're in a tough, tough times, no question about it. But you can't convince me that in the long run, that we're not going to get back on our feet again. And if anybody ever says that, they don't understand the American spirit.

Yes, sir.

Credit Situation

Q. Mr. President, and I've followed your whole tenure in office pretty closely, and I was pretty surprised that you signed the bill. But you just made a very strong argument as to why you signed it, and you laid out the different—

The President. You sound like the guys I grew up with in west Texas, you know. [Laughter]

Q. You really did a great job, because I was—I really wasn't convinced until I just heard you speak.

The President. Well, thank you.

Q. Does anything in the bill or anything that you're working with right now have—to simplify the understanding of the general public, in terms of the Fair Credit Act, passed in 1970, and the amendment passed in 2003, as to how people can understand credit? Because it's very difficult to understand credit unless you do your homework.

The President. Yes, I'm telling you, it's really hard to understand credit—

Q. I mean, yes, it's just very difficult, and, I mean, unless, you know, unless you know how to use the Internet very well, unless you have the—you know, unless you have the ambition to do so, you're not really going to take the initiative. And then that's how you can get in a credit crunch, because you might have something on your credit report or something that reflects negatively, and the CRAs, the credit reporting agencies, they're not going to do anything about it.

The President. Yes. No, that's an interesting question. I'm sure Congress will revisit the 2003 law. One of the things we pressed is financial literacy, so that people understand what they're dealing with in the first place. And I really suspect that when we dig into the mortgage issue, that people were buying mortgages that they had no idea they're going to reset. In other words, somebody went out there and said, "Here, you

got yourself low interest rates," but they forgot to tell them, in 2 or 3 years time that interest rate was going to bump up, and it caught people by surprise.

And we need to have a full analysis of the credit rules and—on how people are dealt with, as well as transparency in the mortgage industry. But a lot of it has to do with financial literacy. People just aren't sure what the language is that they're dealing with.

I appreciate your comments on the rescue package. I really meant what I said, that I'm a firm believer that if people make mistakes in the business world, that—if you make bad decisions, that they ought to suffer the economic consequences. But the problem was, in this case, you would suffer them.

My pals say, and I understand this, I fully believe this, that, "How can you possibly stand there and let Wall Street do what they did?" Listen, people are angry about the fact that people look like they're dragging out money when there's failure. I understand that. I don't mind rewarding success. It's when people make money on failure. And I think there's going to be a—there needs to be a reassessment of these packages. There needs to be a reassessment of how interconnected people get—people became; how they made promises that they were not in a capital position to fix.

Step one is to fix the immediate, solve this thing. And step two is to make sure we don't get tomorrow where we are today, without creating a regulatory regime that inhibits—small-business growth. And I think it's going to be—it's a real challenge.

But my immediate concern is solving today, is to make sure the plan—first of all, last week was getting the plan passed, which happened last Friday—it may seem like a month ago, but it's—[laughter]—last Friday—and getting it implemented, and working with our partners overseas to make sure the effort is as coordinated as possible so we can be effective.

And the definition of "effective" from a small-business perspective is when you begin to see credit ease. And we understand that. And we're trying to move as quickly as we can to get credit moving in a way that people say, "Okay, now I see what they're trying to do."

Yes, sir.

Credit Situation

Q. First of all, I want to just say thank you very much for understanding the importance of credit. My name is Mike Gray. We're next door. The company's called Exhibit Edge. My wife is the owner, Bev Gray, of the company.

The President. That's a smart move. [Laughter] She just doesn't want to talk in front of all the cameras, so you're her spokesperson.

Q. Yes, sir. I just want you to emphasize how important freeing up credit is.

The President. Yes, thank you.

Q. I mean, just to give you some quick numbers. We're a \$3.5 million company, and we rely on a \$500,000 home credit line to support our business, which means we have to roll this money over six, seven times a year. That's how much we need this credit. And now the—we've got a notice or a letter from a bank—or from the bank that runs our credit line—that says home values are going down a little bit, and if you pay down your principle a little, we're not going to give you quite as much back. And so our strategy is don't pay it down, to keep it maxed out all the time.

And so we're comfortable now, and we're able to take care of our business by doing this. But it's so important for you to emphasize the need that small businesses have for the use of that credit. And I thank you so much. You're really working hard—

The President. Thanks for hanging in there.

Q. Absolutely. You, too.

The President. It's also important for, obviously, consumers to be able to borrow money to buy a car. It's just—credit is what makes our system go. And when credit freezes, it creates a standstill. And when people stand still, it just begins to shut down the economy. And that's why we're moving as hard as we're moving. And somebody asked me: "Is it going to work?" This is the best shot we've got. And it's a big, bold move. And it's—I listened to a lot of smart people about what to do. And it was a—hard for Congress to swallow, because I understand there's a lot of skepticism about the Government making a big, bold move. But you're

the kind of guy that was represented by the yes votes when they said, I'm worried about credit freezing; what are you going to do about it?

And so, what I'm trying to describe to you today—I hope I'm getting through to the people listening, as well—is that we're trying to address this guy's problem, and trying to address small businesspeople's problem all around the country with something that will be effective when it comes to freezing up credit.

All right, you know what—yes, sir. About to say I enjoyed it, but—[laughter].

Insured Bank Deposits

Q. Mr. President, is my bank account safe?

The President. Yes, it is, up to \$250,000. We went from 100,000 to 250. That is a very good question. You know, a lot of Americans are hearing these stories and they're wondering whether or not their money is safe. And you're insured up to \$250,000. We raised it from 100 to 250. And it's just essential that the American people know that the FDIC has never failed on meeting that obligation, and it's darn sure not going to fail now.

It's—these are tough times, no question about it. I know a lot of folks around the country have got questions. And part of addressing these tough times is to, you know, is to focus on the core problem. And the core problem, as this good man talked about, was getting credit moving so consumers and businesses have got the capability of realizing their—in the case of a small business, their plans and their ability to grow and to meet demand. And that's what we're—that's what we're addressing.

I thank you for giving me a chance to come by and visit with you. I love coming to places where we're on the frontlines of economic progress. The truth of the matter is, the small-business owner and the small-business sector really provide the backbone of the American system. You've been asked a lot during these times, but I've got great faith in the small-business sector. And when government gives you that—helps you get that capital you need, the small-business sector is going to help us lead out—help lead us out of the situation we're in today.

I know that the days are dim right now for a lot of folks, but I firmly believe tomorrow is going to be brighter. And I thank you for having that resiliency and that drive to hang in there and help this economy grow and recover.

God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2 p.m. at Guernsey Office Products, Inc. In his remarks, he referred to David Guernsey, president and chief executive officer, Guernsey Office Products, Inc., who introduced the President.

Message on the Observance of Yom Kippur, 5769

October 7, 2008

For on this day shall atonement be made for you, to cleanse you; from all your sins shall ye be clean before the LORD.

Leviticus 16:30

Yom Kippur is the Jewish Day of Atonement and the most holy day in the Jewish faith. From the time the Kol Nidre is recited until the Shofar is sounded, Jews around the world will draw nearer to God through acts of atonement, fasting, and prayer. Jewish tradition teaches that on Yom Kippur, God remembers every name, listens to every petition, and offers forgiveness to the repentant.

On this day, Americans are reminded of the great blessings of religious freedom and the unalienable rights bestowed upon all people by the Creator of life. May God grant us peace, comfort, and hope for all the challenges we may face in the year ahead.

Laura and I send our best wishes for a blessed day and a most meaningful fast.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Executive Order 13475—Further Amendments to Executive Orders 12139 and 12949 in Light of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 Amendments Act of 2008

October 7, 2008

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including sections 104 and 303 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), as amended by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 Amendments Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–261), it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Section 1–103 of Executive Order 12139 of May 23, 1979, as amended, is further amended by:

- (a) striking “(7)” each place it appears and inserting in lieu thereof “(6)”;
- (b) adding after subsection (h) “(i) Deputy Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.”; and
- (c) by adding after the sentence that begins “None of the above officials . . .”, a new sentence to read “The requirement of the preceding sentence that the named official must be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate does not apply to the Deputy Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.”

Sec. 2. Section 3 of Executive Order 12949 of February 9, 1995, as amended, is further amended by:

- (a) striking “(7)” each place it appears and inserting in lieu thereof “(6)”;
- (b) striking “and” at the end of subsection (g);
- (c) striking the period at the end of subsection (h) and inserting in lieu thereof “; and”;
- (d) adding after subsection (h) “(i) Deputy Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.”; and
- (e) by adding after the sentence that begins “None of the above officials . . .”, a new sentence to read “The requirement of the preceding sentence

that the named official must be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate does not apply to the Deputy Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.”

Sec. 3. This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, by any party against the United States, its agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 7, 2008.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
8:45 a.m., October 9, 2008]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on October 10.

Remarks on Signing the United States-India Nuclear Cooperation Approval and Nonproliferation Enhancement Act

October 8, 2008

Thank you for coming. Welcome to the White House. Today I have the honor of signing legislation that builds on the growing ties between the world's two largest democracies, India and the United States. This legislation will enhance our cooperation in using nuclear energy to power our economies; it will help us work together even more closely to reduce the danger of nuclear proliferation across the world.

This legislation represents more than 3 years of hard work by a lot of people. I appreciate the work of the Indian-American leaders from across the Nation. I thank the Members of the United States Congress for working hard on this piece of legislation. I'm especially grateful for the leadership provided by Speaker Nancy Pelosi, John Boehner, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, and Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, who worked hard to make sure this bill made it through both Houses at the very end of the session. [Laughter]

I want to thank the Foreign Affairs—[*applause*]. I thank the leaders of the Foreign Affairs Committees in the House and the Senate—Senator Joe Biden; Dick Lugar; Chris Dodd, who's with us; as well as Representatives Howard Berman and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. I also welcome the Members of Congress here on the stage who worked hard to get this legislation done. I appreciate so very much the contributions of two leaders who played an important role in crafting this legislation, the late Henry Hyde and the late Tom Lantos.

Other Members who've joined us—John Warner, Senator from Virginia; Eliot Engel, Democrat, House Foreign Affairs committee member from New York; Congressman Joe Crowley from New York. I thank the members of the administration who have joined us—Mr. Vice President, thank you. I appreciate the hard work that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice did to bring this deal to fruition, as well as Secretary Sam Bodman at the Department of Energy.

I am so honored here that—to have the Ambassador of India to the United States with us; Ambassador Sen, thank you for joining us. And I appreciate very much the incredibly efficient work of our Ambassador, David Mulford, and his wife, Jeannie; thank you for being here. You didn't do so bad yourself, Ambassador Blackwill—[*laughter*].

I thank the congressional staff who worked hard on this legislation. I congratulate you for the constructive work. I appreciate the supporters of the U.S.-India Nuclear Civil Agreement that are here today. All in all, welcome. This is a—it's a big deal.

Even though the United States and India are separated by half the globe, we are natural partners as we head into the 21st century. Both our nations emerged from a colonial past to establish vibrant democracies. We have welcomed investment and private enterprise to become leaders in the global economy. We have stood against the dangers posed by extremists, who have carried out attacks in both our countries. We have demonstrated that we cherish liberty, honor human dignity, and respect the rule of law.

Despite these common interests and values, it was not long ago that relations between the United States and India were

strained. In recent years, we've worked to transform our relationship into a strong strategic partnership. One area where we saw tremendous potential for cooperation is energy. As our economies have grown, our demands for energy have grown as well. It's become increasingly clear that we need to generate that energy in ways that are safe and clean and secure.

One energy source that can generate large amounts of electricity with zero emissions of air pollution or greenhouse gases is nuclear power. So 3 years ago, Prime Minister Singh—who I consider a dear friend—and I resolved to work together on a landmark agreement paving the way for our nations to cooperate on nuclear power. By undertaking new cooperation on civil nuclear energy, India will be able to count on a reliable fuel supply for its civilian reactors, meet the energy demands of its people, and reduce its independence [dependence] * on fossil fuels.

For our part, the United States will gain access to a growing market for civilian nuclear technologies and materials, that will help American businesses create more jobs for our people here at home.

Our agreement will also strengthen global nonproliferation efforts. India has committed to operate its civil nuclear energy program under the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international guidelines. India will continue to build on its strong record of responsibility in operating its nuclear facilities. And India and the United States will cooperate more closely to keep the world's most dangerous weapons out of the hands of extremists and terrorists.

The bill I sign today approves the 123 Agreement I submitted to Congress and establishes the legal framework for that agreement to come into effect. The bill makes clear that our agreement with India is consistent with the Atomic Energy Act and other elements of U.S. law. By passing this legisla-

tion, my administration and Congress demonstrate our common view that nuclear cooperation is in the interests of both the United States and India.

The legislation makes no changes to the terms of the 123 Agreement I submitted to Congress. It enables me to bring that agreement into force and to accept on behalf of the United States all the obligations that are part of the agreement. This legislation does not change the fuel assurance commitments that the United States Government has made to the Government of India, as recorded in the 123 Agreement. The agreement also grants India advance consent to reprocessing, which will be brought into effect upon the conclusion of arrangements and procedures for a dedicated reprocessing facility under IAEA safeguards.

This agreement sends a signal to the world: Nations that follow the path of democracy and responsible behavior will find a friend in the United States of America. The American people are proud of our strong relationship with India. And I am confident that the friendship between our two nations will grow even closer in the years ahead.

Laura and I send our best wishes to the hundreds of millions of people in India and around the world who will begin celebrating the ancient festival of Diwali later this month. As we offer our prayers for a happy new year, we can be thankful that the relationship between the United States and India has never been more vibrant and more hopeful.

And it's now my honor to sign the United States-India Nuclear Cooperation Approval and Nonproliferation Enhancement Act.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:24 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to India's Ambassador to the U.S. Ranendra Sen; U.S. Ambassador to India David C. Mulford, and his wife Jeannie; former U.S. Ambassador to India Robert D. Blackwill; and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India. H.R. 7081, approved October 8, was assigned Public Law No. 110-369.

* White House correction.

Statement on Signing the United States-India Nuclear Cooperation Approval and Nonproliferation Enhancement Act

October 8, 2008

I am pleased today to sign into law the United States-India Nuclear Cooperation Approval and Nonproliferation Enhancement Act, which approves the U.S.-India 123 Agreement. The passage of this legislation by the Congress marks another major milestone in achieving the vision that Prime Minister Singh and I set forth on July 18, 2005, to transform the relationship between our two countries and to establish a strategic partnership. This act will strengthen the relationship between the United States and India and deliver valuable benefits to both nations.

The legislation does not change the terms of the 123 Agreement as I submitted it to the Congress. That agreement is consistent with the Atomic Energy Act and other elements of U.S. law. This legislation is important as it enables me to bring the 123 Agreement into force and to accept on behalf of the United States the obligations contained in the agreement.

The agreement grants India advance consent to reprocessing which will be brought into effect upon conclusion of arrangements and procedures for a dedicated reprocessing facility under IAEA safeguards.

In addition, the legislation does not change the fuel assurance commitments that the U.S. Government has made to the Government of India, as recorded in the 123 Agreement.

The passage of this legislation reflects the common view of my administration and the Congress as to the value of nuclear cooperation and is in the interest of the United States and India.

NOTE: The statement referred to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India. H.R. 7081, approved October 8, was assigned Public Law No. 110-369.

Proclamation 8203—Leif Erikson Day, 2008

October 8, 2008

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On Leif Erikson Day, we remember that son of Iceland and grandson of Norway for his journey to North America, and we celebrate the influential role Nordic Americans have played in our society.

Leif Erikson was among the world's greatest and most daring explorers. More than 1,000 years ago, he led a crew across the Atlantic to North America. Today, the same desire to explore and open new frontiers inspires our citizens and contributes to the strength of our Nation.

America's friendships with Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden are strong, and Nordic Americans have added to our rich cultural diversity and proud ancestry. On this day, we recognize these individuals for their remarkable achievements in all sectors of our society. America is grateful for the many contributions of Nordic Americans, and we continue to draw inspiration from the courage and optimism of the adventurous Leif Erikson.

To honor Leif Erikson and to celebrate our citizens of Nordic American heritage, the Congress, by joint resolution (Public Law 88-566) approved on September 2, 1964, has authorized the President to proclaim October 9 of each year as "Leif Erikson Day."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 9, 2008, as Leif Erikson Day. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to honor our rich Nordic-American heritage.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 10, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 14.

Remarks Following a Meeting With President Ivan Gasparovic of Slovakia

October 9, 2008

President Bush. It is my honor to welcome the President of Slovakia to the Oval Office. Slovakia is an ally and friend of the United States. And in my time as President, I have come to admire this President. He's an easy man to talk to. He's got good, strong opinions, and I appreciate his values.

We talked about a variety of subjects. I assured him that the United States will take strong action in dealing with the current economic situation. And I also talked about our common desire to have a—to work with our European friends to develop as best as possible common policy.

During my Presidency, I was pleased to support Slovakia's ascension into NATO. I was confident that Slovakia would be an excellent partner and ally in NATO, and history has proven me correct. And I thank the people of Slovakia for supporting the Government's decision to deploy troops into Afghanistan to help that young democracy never again be a safe haven for terrorists, and to serve as an example of the transformative power of freedom.

Finally, we talked about visa waiver. I told the President that Slovakia has made a lot of progress on visa waiver. And I expect that in mid-November there will be a—you know, a positive decision for the people of your good country, Mr. President. And I congratulate you and your foreign ministry for working hard on this issue. And I'm glad to welcome you to the Oval Office.

President Gasparovic. Mr. President, allow me to start by thanking you for inviting me. This is an extraordinary day for me. And I believe it is also a satisfaction to the people of Slovakia for them to see that Slovakia has a favorable disposition towards our country, and that we have good relations. I believe that in the history of our relations, we are currently at our highest point.

It was during his Presidency that President Bush supported Slovakia on its way to NATO, which in turn, helped Slovakia to become a member of the European Union. These were two very important steps and decisions that allowed Slovakia to build its reputation as a credible country. And it is this credibility that allows Slovakia to attract foreign investment into our country. Slovakia continues to be a prosperous country and a country that has and maintains its credibility in foreign policy as well.

We talked about many difficult issues. We talked also about the financial crisis and about the steps that need to be taken in order to overcome this crisis and to reinvigorate the financial system.

I'm very glad that Slovakia and its economy is currently in a situation where we will not likely be taking a direct hit from this financial crisis. Slovakia is in a position where we're able to mitigate many impacts of this crisis. On the other hand, Slovakia is the world's largest per capita car producer. This means that Slovakia's exports and foreign trade will suffer. However, we believe that we can take steps to mitigate this impact.

I was glad that in my capacity as the President of the Slovak Republic, I was able to reassure the President that Slovakia will continue to stand behind its commitments and its dedication to NATO, and that we will continue to be present in Afghanistan. Moreover, Slovakia will increase the number of troops deployed to Afghanistan by 100 percent.

In closing, I want to say that I believe, Mr. President, our meeting today was a very strong message of the good relations that Slovakia has with the United States, and vice versa.

I believe that this will continue——

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:16 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. President Gasparovic spoke in Slovak, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks at a Reception Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

October 9, 2008

Hola! Sientese. Bienvenidos a la Casa Blanca. [Laughter] Este es el ultimo “Mes de la Hispanidad” que paso como presidente—y por eso, le dije a mi personal que hoy queria hablarles solo en espanol. Me contestaron: “Senor presidente, antes de dar un discurso en espanol, por que no llega primero a dominar el ingles?” [Laughter]

I am proud to be with you. I am proud to be with current and former Latino members of my administration. I want to thank the ambassadors from the diplomatic corps for joining us today. We're proud to be your friends. I want to thank the members of the United States Armed Forces who have joined us. I want to thank my friend Emilio Estefan, president of Estefan Enterprises. And I want to thank Andres Cabas from Colombia, who is going to sing a couple of songs for us. Thank you and your band for joining us.

Every year at this time, we recognize the great contributions Hispanic Americans make to our country—and we should. From coast to coast, people of Hispanic descent enrich our culture and make our Nation a better place. They serve in top positions throughout business and government. They bring their strong values of faith and family to our communities. My family is proud to have Latino blood—*mi cunada*. Jeb and I both married very well. [Laughter] Hispanic Americans cherish the limitless promise of our Nation. During the past 8 years, I've been proud to work with you to ensure *que todos puedan alcanzar las promesas de los Estados Unidos*.

One promise is good education. I mean, you can't have a hopeful nation unless you've got a good education system. And so we worked with Congress to pass the No Child Left Behind Act. This act raises standards and accountability across schools in the country, and I'm pleased to report Hispanic students are scoring at alltime highs on tests, and therefore, an achievement gap is narrowing.

For hundreds of thousands of Hispanic children, the best hope for good education is found in America's faith-based schools.

Earlier this year, I proposed a new program called Pell Grants for Kids, which would help low-income children in underperforming public schools attend a private, a parochial, or out-of-district public school of their choice.

Earlier this year, I met a very interesting young woman at the White House Summit on the Inner-City Children and Faith-Based Schools. The whole purpose was to help these schools realize a comeback and make sure our communities were able to have these schools as a part of their future. The woman I met is a woman named Katrina [Karina]^{*} Ramirez. She grew up in Chicago neighborhood. It was plagued by gang violence, and she had a tough time in school because she didn't speak English. But at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, Karina received a top-notch education. She received real work experience, and she got herself a ticket to college. Karina says, “My dad went from garbage picking in Mexico to having a daughter going to Georgetown.” Karina, thank you for coming. She is proof that *el Sueno Americano es para todos*.

Economic opportunity is a promise of our country. And the truth of the matter is, for generations people have found opportunities in this country that would have been impossible in the places where they were born, and that has made us a vibrant country, and it's encouraged entrepreneurship. Today, the economy, obviously, is going through a very tough stretch, and that's why the administration will work with Congress to pass a financial rescue plan.

The goal of this plan is to free up the flow of capital to help all Americans get the capital and loans necessary to help weather these difficult times. Part of the plan is to free up capital for small businesses. After all, small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and interestingly enough, according to the most recent data, more than 1.5 million small businesses are owned by Hispanic owners.

In times of economic uncertainty, we need to be promoting free trade, particularly with friends in our neighborhood. During my time as President, we've opened up trade agreements with a lot of nations, including nations

^{*} White House correction.

in Central America and in South America. But there's a couple of them that need to be approved by the United States Congress. We approved the free trade agreement with Peru, but we're waiting on Congress to approve the free trade agreements with Panama and Colombia.

I'm confident in our economy's long-term prospects. We'll get through this deal. And the reason why I'm confident is because we got the most talented and productive workers in the world. And many are Hispanic men and women who work hard every single day to support their families.

One promise of America is the compassion of our people. During my time in office, I've been proud to work with Hispanic Americans to lift up *nuestros hermanos y hermanas* in need. I established the USA Freedom Corps to foster a culture of citizenship and responsibility and service. And today nearly 61 million Americans volunteer their time to help our fellow citizens—many of them Hispanics.

Through our Faith-Based and Community Initiative, we are harnessing the compassion of religious groups to reduce homelessness and break the chains of addiction, give prisoners a second chance, and alleviate suffering at home and abroad.

Recently I met a woman from San Diego whose life has been transformed by America's armies of compassion. Edith Espinoza suffered terrible abuse from her husband. She turned to El Nido program, an interfaith shelter network supported by the Faith-Based and Community Initiative. El Nido is a place where Edith received counseling and learned how to get a job and save money. She and her daughters now live in an apartment that she pays on her own. Her goal is to become a social worker so she can help other families like hers. She is showing that because of the good hearts of our citizens, *el Sueno Americano es por todos*.

One promise of America is freedom—freedom for all. Hispanic Americans are extending this country's promise of freedom and liberty to others. Hispanics serving in Afghanistan and Iraq, to help those young democracies realize the blessings of freedom. I particularly want to thank those who are working to hasten the day of freedom for the Cuban people.

I'm especially proud to be the Commander in Chief of a military in which there's 225,000 Hispanic men and women. One of these *hispanos* is an Army Lieutenant Colonel named Enrique Guerra. Listen to his story: Enrique fled Cuba with his parents when he was an infant. They wanted their young child to grow up in a society that was free and hopeful. He spent more than 22 years in the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve. Today, he is a battalion commander at Camp Cropper in Iraq, helping the people in the Middle East secure their own freedom and, therefore, lay the foundation of peace for generations to come.

Enrique puts it this way: "As a Cuban America, I was born with a strong sense of patriotism, and that is why I serve." And today I'm proud to honor his service, and the service of all Hispanic Americans, who ensure that freedom is available to all. Enrique, *bienvenidos*. Thank you for coming. Thank you, sir.

And so today we celebrate the many contributions that generations of Hispanics have made to the American Dream. Their creativity and determination help our country to live up to its promise of opportunity and prosperity and freedom for all our citizens.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, we give thanks for these blessings, and we ask for God's continued blessings on you and your families, *y los Estados Unidos*.

And now it's my honor to welcome one of Latin America's most popular young vocalists, Colombia's Andres Cabas.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:10 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida and his wife Columba. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Executive Order 13476—Facilitation of a Presidential Transition

October 9, 2008

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 7301 of title 5, United States Code, and the

Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-458) (IRTPA), and in order to further the purposes of the Presidential Transition Act of 1963, as amended, and to assist the presidential transition, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Presidential Transition Coordination. (a) To assist and support the transition efforts of the transition teams for the “major party” “candidates,” as those terms are used in the IRTPA and defined in section 9002(2) and (6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 9002(2), (6)), and the President-elect, there is established a Presidential Transition Coordinating Council (Council).

(b) The Council shall be composed of the following officials or their designees:

- (i) Chief of Staff to the President, who shall serve as Chair;
- (ii) Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, who shall serve as Vice Chair;
- (iii) Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy;
- (iv) Counsel to the President;
- (v) Assistant to the President for Presidential Personnel;
- (vi) Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs;
- (vii) Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism;
- (viii) Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Director, National Economic Council;
- (ix) Attorney General;
- (x) Director of National Intelligence;
- (xi) Director of the Office of Management and Budget;
- (xii) Director of the Office of Personnel Management;
- (xiii) Administrator of General Services;
- (xiv) Archivist of the United States;
- (xv) Director of the Office of Government Ethics; and
- (xvi) Such others as the President or the Chair of the Council may select.

(c) The Council shall assist the major party candidates and the President-elect by making every reasonable effort to facilitate the transition between administrations. This assistance may include, among other things, providing

information relevant to facilitating the personnel aspects of a presidential transition and such other information that, in the Council’s judgment, is useful and appropriate, as long as providing such information is not otherwise prohibited by law.

(d) In order to obtain a wide range of facts and information on prior transitions and best practices, the Council, its members, or their designees may, from time to time, seek information from private individuals, including individuals within outside organizations, who have significant experience or expertise in presidential transitions. The Council, its members, or their designees shall endeavor to obtain such facts and information from individuals representing a range of bipartisan or nonpartisan viewpoints. If the Council, its members, or their designees find it necessary to seek advice from private individuals or outside organizations, such counsel should be sought in a manner that seeks individual advice and does not involve collective judgment or deliberation.

(e) It shall be the policy of the Council to provide appropriate information and assistance to the major party candidates on an equal basis and without regard for party affiliation.

Sec. 2. Transition Activities and Materials.

(a) At the direction of the Council or its designee(s), the Administrator of General Services shall coordinate orientation activities with the appropriate agencies, including the Office of Government Ethics and the Office of Personnel Management, for key prospective presidential appointees.

(b) At the direction of the Council or its designee(s), the White House Office of Presidential Personnel shall supplement as appropriate and necessary the electronic record of all title 5 presidentially appointed positions provided by the Office of Personnel Management to the major party candidates pursuant to section 8403(b) of IRTPA.

(c) The Suitability and Security Clearance Performance Accountability Council shall coordinate with the Council when performing those functions authorized by Executive Order 13467 of June 30, 2008, that are necessary to assist in transition-related activities.

(d) At the direction of the Council or its designee(s), executive departments and

agencies shall prepare a set of briefing materials for new political appointees before the inauguration of the President-elect. The current Administration shall work with the incoming transition team to provide copies of all such materials.

(e) At the direction of the Council or its designee(s) and consistent with the Presidential Transition Act of 1963, as amended, the Administrator of General Services, in consultation with the Archivist of the United States and other appropriate agencies, shall develop a Transition Directory. This directory shall include Federal publications and other materials that provide information on each executive department and agency.

Sec. 3. Transition Agreements. To assist and support the transition, transition agreements between the White House or appropriate executive branch departments and agencies and the transition teams for the major party candidates and the President-elect will be entered into, as necessary, regarding transition procedures and identification of transition contacts.

Sec. 4. General Provisions. (a) In order to take appropriate account of the transition reforms made by IRTPA and to further update and clarify the presidential transition process, this order supersedes Executive Order 13176 of November 27, 2000.

(b) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

- (i) authority granted by law to a department or agency, or the head thereof; or
- (ii) functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(c) This order is intended only to facilitate the transition and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, by any party against the United States, its agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

(d) Unless extended by the President, this order shall expire on February 20, 2009.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 9, 2008.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 10, 2008]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 14.

Memorandum on Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization Office

October 9, 2008

Presidential Determination No. 2009-03

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization Office

Pursuant to the authority and conditions contained in section 634(d) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008 (Division J, Public Law 110-161), as carried forward by the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2009 (Division A, Public Law 110-329), I hereby determine and certify that it is important to the national security interests of the United States to waive the provisions of section 1003 of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987, Public Law 100-204.

This waiver shall be effective for a period of 6 months from the date hereof. You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Remarks on the National Economy

October 10, 2008

Good morning. Over the past few days, we have witnessed a startling drop in the stock market, much of it driven by uncertainty and fear. This has been a deeply unsettling period for the American people. Many of our citizens have serious concerns about their retirement accounts, their investments, and their economic well-being.

Here's what the American people need to know: That the United States Government is acting; we will continue to act to resolve

this crisis and restore stability to our markets. We are a prosperous nation with immense resources and a wide range of tools at our disposal. We're using these tools aggressively.

The fundamental problem is this: As the housing market has declined, banks holding assets related to home mortgages have suffered serious losses. As a result of these losses, many banks lack the capital or the confidence in each other to make new loans. In turn, our system of credit has frozen, which is keeping American businesses from financing their daily transactions and creating uncertainty throughout our economy.

This uncertainty has led to anxiety among our people, and that is understandable. That anxiety can feed anxiety, and that can make it hard to see all that is being done to solve the problem. The Federal Government has a comprehensive strategy and the tools necessary to address the challenges in our economy. Fellow citizens, we can solve this crisis, and we will.

Here are the problems we face and the steps we are taking.

First, key markets are not functioning because there's a lack of liquidity, the grease necessary to keep the gears of our financial system turning. So the Federal Reserve has injected hundreds of billions of dollars into the system. The Fed has joined with central banks around the world to coordinate a cut in interest rates. This rate cut will allow banks to borrow money more affordably, and it should help free up additional credit necessary to create jobs and finance college educations and help American families meet their daily needs. The Fed has also announced a new program to provide support for the commercial paper market, which is freezing up. As the new program kicks in over the next week or so, it will help revive a key source of short-term financing for American businesses and financial institutions.

Second, some Americans are concerned about whether their money is safe. So the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the National Credit Union Administration have significantly expanded the amount of money insured in savings accounts and checking accounts and certificates of deposit. That means that if you have up to \$250,000

in one of these insured accounts, every penny of that money is safe. The Treasury Department has also acted to restore confidence in a key element of America's financial system by offering government insurance for money market mutual funds.

Thirdly, we are concerned that some investors could take advantage of the crisis to illegally manipulate the stock market. So the Securities and Exchange Commission has launched rigorous enforcement actions to detect fraud and manipulation in the market. The SEC is focused on preventing abusive practices, such as putting out false information to drive down particular stocks for personal gain. Anyone caught engaging in illegal financial activities will be prosecuted.

Fourth, the decline in the housing market has left many Americans struggling to meet their mortgages—and are concerned about losing their homes. My administration has launched two initiatives to help responsible borrowers keep their homes. One is called HOPE NOW, and it brings together homeowners and lenders and mortgage servicers and others to find ways to prevent foreclosure. The other initiative is aimed at making it easier for responsible homeowners to refinance into affordable mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration. So far, these programs have helped more than 2 million Americans stay in their home. And the point is this: If you are struggling to meet your mortgage, there are ways that you can get help.

With these actions to help to prevent foreclosures, we're addressing a key problem in the housing market: The supply of homes now exceeds demand. And as a result, home values have declined. Once supply and demand balance out, our housing market will be able to recover, and that will help our broader economy begin to grow.

Fifth, we've seen that problems in the financial system are not isolated to the United States. They're also affecting other nations around the globe. So we're working closely with partners around the world to ensure that our actions are coordinated and effective. Tomorrow I'll meet with the finance ministers from our partners in the G-7 and the heads of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. Secretary Paulson will also meet

with finance ministers from the world's 20 leading economies. Through these efforts, the world is sending an unmistakable signal: We're in this together, and we'll come through this together.

And finally, American businesses and consumers are struggling to obtain credit, because banks do not have sufficient capital to make loans. So my administration worked with Congress to quickly pass a \$700 billion financial rescue package. This new law authorizes the Treasury Department to use a variety of measures to help bank rebuild capital, including buying or insuring troubled assets and purchasing equity of financial institutions. The Department will implement measures that have maximum impact as quickly as possible. Seven hundred billion dollars is a significant amount of money. And as we act, we will do so in a way that is effective.

The plan we are executing is aggressive. It is the right plan. It will take time to have its full impact. It is flexible enough to adapt as the situation changes, and it is big enough to work.

The Federal Government will continue to take the actions necessary to restore stability to our financial markets and growth to our economy. We have an outstanding economic team carrying out this effort, led by Secretary of the Treasury Hank Paulson, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, SEC Chairman Chris Cox, and FDIC Chair Sheila Bair. I thank them and their dedicated teams for their service during this important moment in our country's history.

This is an anxious time, but the American people can be confident in our economic future. We know what the problems are, we have the tools to fix them, and we're working swiftly to do so. Our economy is innovative, industrious, and resilient because the American people who make up our economy are innovative, industrious, and resilient. We all share a determination to solve this problem, and that is exactly what we're going to do. May God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:25 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Proclamation—National School Lunch Week, 2008

October 10, 2008

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During National School Lunch Week, we underscore the importance of providing America's children with access to nutritious meals and helping them develop good eating habits through the National School Lunch Program.

The National School Lunch Program is a federally assisted meal program administered by the Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service in cooperation with State agencies. Since 1946, the National School Lunch Program has served more than 187 billion lunches to students across America. The program is designed to ensure that each day millions of children are receiving the healthy food necessary to succeed by providing access to nutritious low-cost or free meals. By serving well-balanced meals that are lower in fat and have plenty of fruits, vegetables, and whole-grain foods, this program helps children learn healthy eating habits, reduce their risk of serious health problems, and perform better in the classroom.

Throughout National School Lunch Week, we recognize the school officials and parents who encourage young people to develop good eating habits. We also thank the dedicated food service professionals who serve our children healthy foods each day at school.

In recognition of the contributions of the National School Lunch Program to the health, education, and well-being of America's children, the Congress, by joint resolution of October 9, 1962 (Public Law 87-780), as amended, has designated the week beginning on the second Sunday in October of each year as "National School Lunch Week" and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of October 12 through October 18, 2008, as National School Lunch Week. I call upon all Americans to join the dedicated individuals who

administer the National School Lunch Program in appropriate activities that support the health and well-being of our Nation's children.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

George W. Bush

NOTE: At the time of publication, this proclamation had not been received by the Office of the Federal Register for assignment of a proclamation number.

Proclamation—Columbus Day, 2008

October 10, 2008

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Christopher Columbus' bold voyage across the Atlantic changed the world forever. On Columbus Day, we remember this Italian explorer's courage in traveling to the unknown and celebrate his landmark achievements and lasting legacy.

History holds remarkable examples of heroism and adventure, and the journey of the navigator from Genoa in 1492 is one of history's great stories of daring and bravery. Columbus' expedition became an epic of discovery and opened up the New World for future generations. His journey will forever stand as a testament to his intrepid spirit and persistence. Today, his legacy of discovery and determination is an example for innovators and dreamers as they pursue broader understanding and use their talents to benefit humanity.

Columbus Day is also an opportunity to reaffirm the close ties between the United States and Italy. Our two countries will continue to work together to advance liberty, peace, and prosperity around the globe. Our Nation recognizes the many inspiring contributions made by Americans of Italian descent. We also honor the dedication and sacrifice of Italian Americans who are serving in our country's Armed Forces. In commemoration of Columbus' journey, the Con-

gress has requested (36 U.S.C. 107) that the President proclaim the second Monday of October of each year as "Columbus Day."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 13, 2008, as Columbus Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also direct that the flag of the United States be displayed on all public buildings on the appointed day in honor of Christopher Columbus.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

George W. Bush

NOTE: At the time of publication, this proclamation had not been received by the Office of the Federal Register for assignment of a proclamation number.

Proclamation—General Pulaski Memorial Day, 2008

October 10, 2008

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

On General Pulaski Memorial Day, we celebrate General Casimir Pulaski's selfless dedication to the cause of freedom during the American Revolution.

In our Nation's struggle for independence, brave individuals such as Casimir Pulaski came to our shores and risked their lives to help bring liberty to a new continent. General Pulaski fought first against Russian domination of his Polish homeland and later joined General George Washington's Continental Army. Pulaski's valor in battle and love of freedom earned him the rank of Brigadier General and authority to organize an independent corps of cavalry. Through his skilled leadership and cavalry tactics he became known as the "Father of the American Cavalry." During the siege of Savannah, General

Pulaski was mortally wounded, making the ultimate sacrifice for our country and the cause of freedom.

General Pulaski's life exemplifies the courage and determination of the many Polish immigrants who have helped make the United States the greatest Nation on Earth. On General Pulaski Memorial Day, we recognize our time-honored friendship with Poland, and we are reminded of the great price our forefathers paid so that we might live in liberty.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 11, 2008, as General Pulaski Memorial Day. I urge Americans to commemorate this occasion with appropriate activities and ceremonies honoring General Casimir Pulaski and all those who defend our freedom.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

George W. Bush

NOTE: At the time of publication, this proclamation had not been received by the Office of the Federal Register for assignment of a proclamation number.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

October 4

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Midland, TX, where, upon arrival in the afternoon, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Linda Fox.

Later in the afternoon, at a private residence, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a Congressional Trust 2008 reception. Later, they returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

October 6

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to San Antonio, TX, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Sonya McDonald. Then, at a private residence, they attended a Congressional Trust 2008 reception.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Cincinnati, OH, where, upon arrival in the afternoon, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Nancy Arnold. Later, they returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to designate Douglas A. Brook as Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller).

October 7

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then had separate telephone conversations with Prime Minister Gordon Brown of the United Kingdom and President Nicolas Sarkozy of France to discuss the global financial markets situation. Later, on the South Lawn, he and Mrs. Bush participated in a photo opportunity with members of the 2008 U.S. summer Olympic and Paralympic teams.

Later in the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy to discuss the global financial markets situation.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Chantilly, VA, where he toured Guernsey Office Products, Inc. He then participated in a meeting on the financial markets situation with State and local business leaders. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

October 8

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Prime Minister Tillman Thomas of Grenada.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with Chancellor Angela

Merkel of Germany to discuss the global financial markets situation.

The President declared a major disaster in North Carolina and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Tropical Storm Hanna from September 4–15.

The President made additional disaster assistance available to Texas by authorizing an extension of 100 percent in the level of Federal funding for debris removal and emergency protective measures undertaken as a result of Hurricane Ike that struck the State from September 7 to October 2.

The President made additional disaster assistance available to Louisiana by authorizing an increase of 100 percent Federal funding for debris removal and emergency measures undertaken as a result of Hurricane Ike that struck the State beginning on September 11 and continuing.

October 9

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President declared a major disaster in Kentucky and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe wind storm associated with Tropical Depression Ike on September 14.

The President declared a major disaster in Oklahoma and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding from September 12–16.

The President announced his intention to designate Patrick A. Gorman as Acting Chief Information Officer at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

October 10

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Miami, FL, where, upon arrival in the afternoon, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Teodoro Rodriguez. He then traveled to Coral Gables, FL.

Later in the afternoon, at a private residence, the President attended a Congressional Trust 2008 reception. Then, at Havana Harry's restaurant, he met with Cuban American community leaders. Later, he trav-

eled to Charleston, SC, where, upon arrival in the evening at Charleston Air Force Base, he was joined by Mrs. Bush and met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Eileen Hadbavny.

Later in the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a photo opportunity and met with the 2008 Little League Softball World Series champion Simpsonville Stars. They then traveled to Kiawah Island, SC, where, at the Sanctuary at Kiawah Island, they attended a Republican National Committee reception. Later, they returned to Washington, DC.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released October 6

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott M. Stanzel

Fact sheet: Judges Who Honor the Constitution

Advance text of the President's remarks to the Cincinnati chapter of the Federalist Society in Cincinnati, Ohio

Released October 7

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary on a Federal district court ordering the release of 17 Chinese Uyghur detainees held at Guantanamo Bay

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 923, H.R. 1199, H.R. 5834, H.R. 5975, H.R. 6092, H.R. 6437, H.R. 6889, H.R. 6893, S. 3015, and S. 3082

Fact sheet: Taking Urgently Needed Action To Stabilize Our Markets

Released October 8

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President will deliver the keynote speech at the White House Summit on International Development: Sustaining the New Era on October 21

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.J. Res. 62, H.R. 1157, H.R. 1343, H.R. 3068, H.R. 3229, H.R. 4120, H.R. 5001, H.R. 5057, H.R. 5265, H.R. 5571, H.R. 5872, H.R. 6370, H.R. 6460, H.R. 6890, H.R. 6894, H.R. 6946, S. 496, S. 1046, S. 1382, S. 1810, S. 2482, S. 2606, S. 2932, S. 2982, S. 3560, and S. 3597

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Louisiana

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to North Carolina

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Texas

Released October 9

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2851 and S. 2840

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Kentucky

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Oklahoma

Released October 10

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy Karl Zinmeister on the Connecticut State Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriage

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2963, H.R. 3480, S. 1492, S. 1582, S. 2162, S. 2816, S. 3023, S. 3128, and S. 3606

Acts Approved by the President

Approved October 7

H.R. 923 / Public Law 110–344
Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007

H.R. 1199 / Public Law 110–345
Drug Endangered Children Act of 2007

H.R. 5834 / Public Law 110–346
North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2008

H.R. 5975 / Public Law 110–347
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 West Main Street in Waterville, New York, as the “Cpl. John P. Sigsbee Post Office”

H.R. 6092 / Public Law 110–348
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 Tallapoosa Street in Bremen, Georgia, as the “Sergeant Paul Saylor Post Office Building”

H.R. 6437 / Public Law 110–349
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 North Texas Avenue in Odessa, Texas, as the “Corporal Alfred Mac Wilson Post Office”

H.R. 6889 / Public Law 110–350
To extend the authority of the Secretary of Education to purchase guaranteed student loans for an additional year, and for other purposes

H.R. 6893 / Public Law 110–351
Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008

S. 3015 / Public Law 110–352
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 18 S. G Street,

Lakeview, Oregon, as the “Dr. Bernard Daly Post Office Building”

S. 3082 / Public Law 110–353

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1700 Cleveland Avenue in Kansas City, Missouri, as the “Reverend Earl Abel Post Office Building”

Approved October 8

H.R. 1157 / Public Law 110–354

Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act of 2008

H.R. 1343 / Public Law 110–355

Health Care Safety Net Act of 2008

H.R. 3068 / Public Law 110–356

Federal Protective Service Guard Contracting Reform Act of 2008

H.R. 3229 / Public Law 110–357

National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center Commemorative Coin Act

H.R. 4120 / Public Law 110–358

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for more effective prosecution of cases involving child pornography, and for other purposes

H.R. 5001 / Public Law 110–359

Old Post Office Building Redevelopment Act of 2008

H.R. 5057 / Public Law 110–360

Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act of 2008

H.R. 5265 / Public Law 110–361

Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research, and Education Amendments of 2008

H.R. 5571 / Public Law 110–362

To extend for 5 years the program relating to waiver of the foreign country residence requirement with respect to international medical graduates, and for other purposes

H.R. 5872 / Public Law 110–363

Boy Scouts of America Centennial Commemorative Coin Act

H.R. 6370 / Public Law 110–364

Oregon Surplus Federal Land Act of 2008

H.R. 6460 / Public Law 110–365

Great Lakes Legacy Reauthorization Act of 2008

H.R. 6890 / Public Law 110–366

To extend the waiver authority for the Secretary of Education under section 105 of subtitle A of title IV of division B of Public Law 109–148, relating to elementary and secondary education hurricane recovery relief, and for other purposes

H.R. 6894 / Public Law 110–367

Defense Production Act Extension and Reauthorization of 2008

H.R. 6946 / Public Law 110–368

To make a technical correction in the NET 911 Improvement Act of 2008

H.R. 7081 / Public Law 110–369

United States-India Nuclear Cooperation Approval and Nonproliferation Enhancement Act

H.J. Res. 62 / Public Law 110–370

Native American Heritage Day Act of 2008

S. 496 / Public Law 110–371

Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments of 2008

S. 1046 / Public Law 110–372

Senior Professional Performance Act of 2008

S. 1382 / Public Law 110–373

ALS Registry Act

S. 1810 / Public Law 110–374

Prenatally and Postnatally Diagnosed Conditions Awareness Act

S. 2482 / Public Law 110–375

To repeal the provision of title 46, United States Code, requiring a license for employment in the business of salvaging on the coast of Florida

S. 2606 / Public Law 110–376

To reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, and for other purposes

S. 2932 / Public Law 110–377

Poison Center Support, Enhancement, and Awareness Act of 2008

S. 2982 / Public Law 110–378
Reconnecting Homeless Youth Act of 2008

S. 3560 / Public Law 110–379
QI Program Supplemental Funding Act of 2008

S. 3597 / Public Law 110–380
To provide that funds allocated for community food projects for fiscal year 2008 shall remain available until September 30, 2009

Approved October 9

H.R. 2851 / Public Law 110–381
Michelle’s Law

S. 2840 / Public Law 110–382
Military Personnel Citizenship Processing Act

Approved October 10

H.R. 2963 / Public Law 110–383
Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians Land Transfer Act of 2007

H.R. 3480 / Public Law 110–384
Let Our Veterans Rest in Peace Act of 2008

S. 1492 / Public Law 110–385
To improve the quality of Federal and State data regarding the availability and quality of

broadband services and to promote the deployment of affordable broadband services to all parts of the Nation

S. 1582 / Public Law 110–386
Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments of 2008

S. 2162 / Public Law 110–387
Veterans’ Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act of 2008

S. 2816 / Public Law 110–388
To provide for the appointment of the Chief Human Capital Officer of the Department of Homeland Security by the Secretary of Homeland Security

S. 3023 / Public Law 110–389
Veterans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2008

S. 3128 / Public Law 110–390
White Mountain Apache Tribe Rural Water System Loan Authorization Act

S. 3606 / Public Law 110–391
Special Immigrant Nonminister Religious Worker Program Act